

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MARKET STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
500 MARKET STATION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016, 3:00 PM**

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**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MARKET STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
500 MARKET STATION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016, 3:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was called to order by Chris Calvert, Chair, at 3:00 pm, on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at the Market Station Conference Room, 500 Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Calvert, Chair
Greg Scargall, Vice Chair
Kenneth Dettelbach
Carmen Rodriguez
Chris Abeyta
Dorothy Seaton
Henry B. F. Hughes

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sigrid Hannah Mabel, Excused
Vacancy

OTHERS PRESENT

Phillip Hernandez, Department of Workforce Development
Julie Sanchez, City of Santa Fe
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Scargall, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2016**

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dettelbach, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, to approve the minutes as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. DISCUSS VETERAN'S SERVICE ORGANIZATION SUMMIT

Mr. Scargall said this was brought up at our last meeting. He has received a "call to action" from the American Legion and the VFW as well. He would like to see the Board take leadership on this and get everyone together to see how we can reimagine needs and ways to create a sustainable concept of Veterans Service organizations. There is urgency and a need. Both of these organizations are close to closing shop. There is something we can do from a mediation standpoint. We have pride in them and heritage. We need to have a broader conversation throughout the community about what we can do collectively. The VFW has had offers to buy their building. It is strategically located. Law firms and the City of Santa Fe have shown an interest in it. Maybe that is not so far fetched anymore. They could liquidate these properties and purchase a facility or build a building to use as a Veteran center for programs or some sort of model.

Chair Calvert said he doesn't think we have to build another building. The Elks Club is out there. They are looking for support for their facility. The Elks seems to be the biggest building. They could provide them a home and maybe a separate space of their own. He thinks the Board needs to pull all the groups together and just talk about it without a real agenda. We can just talk about how we can best serve Veterans without pouring money down a rat hole.

Mr. Scargall said they would like the City or our Board to provide leadership and organization. We could host a holiday event like a pot luck or something and invite the organizations including these. There is a collective need. They could share a meeting space.

Chair Calvert said there are existing buildings. These two are not in good condition. There are others. We need to get people together and start talking and then start looking at a direction. We should not start off with a solution and then force everyone into it.

Ms. Seaton said it sounds like a community coalition. Collaboration and

conserving resources. The first step is to get everyone together and identify goals and needs, then the next step.

Mr. Dettelbach said the VFW came to us. There are grants available. There are things that can be done. Secretary Martinez asked us to come in and meet with them. They had no internal controls or management. We worked with them and that is in good shape now. The same is true with the American Legion. We are going to have a major fundraiser for them. The VFW is a bit different. They are older. He thinks it would be more appropriate to, rather than getting everyone together, bring them in one at a time and talk to them if they want to talk to us and see what kind of resources we can give to them.

Chair Calvert said we are just talking about the co-use of a facility, not merging organizations. We don't know if they want it or not. We don't want to get into solutions.

Mr. Hughes arrived at the meeting.

Chair Calvert said there are too many resources being spent on aging buildings and not enough going toward programs for Veterans. We need to take leadership and see if there is any kind of forward movement we can make to help. The more we help the organizations the more we are helping Veterans in the community. This effort would be for programs, not buildings.

Mr. Dettelbach said we could meet and have mentor tables. They could come to individual tables and talk with one of us.

Mr. Scargall said a one-on-one approach is important. There is a lot of pride there. Where he is coming from and the Veteran population he talks to, the current generation, they have different dreams and ambitions about what their needs are. He became active in these organizations and tried to reimagine what was going on. He can't bring his family to those clubs. Smoking and drinking and gaming. A lot of younger Veterans have the same feelings. They would like to have art space and exercise space. Things like that. There are other ideas out there. We probably do need to go knock on their door. He is willing to do that.

Ms. Seaton said she agrees that the smoking mens bar and club is not healthy. Changing the culture is part of the process. We need to make a place welcoming to a broader spectrum of Veterans and families.

Mr. Scargall said the model is broken.

Mr. Abeyta said it seems we could get into the craziness of who is doing a better job and he does not feel comfortable with that. He feels that we should take the inactive to look at a space and begin to say we have this and we feel it is important to do this. He would feel better if we came up with something looking at a building or doing as

much as we could as a group and say this is what we have. If we can do that and get it established then we could ask them to join us. The VFW and the American Legion know what is up. They are dying. That is the reality.

Chair Calvert said having listened to what everyone has had to say, what we might be able to do is meet with some people who have promising facilities like the Elks and then list the organizations we want to contact and schedule visits with those groups and chat with them about their needs and issues. We can talk about consolidation, not of organizations but of meeting space. We would have to see how it goes. We have to listen to them and not go in with a forgone solution.

Mr. Dettelbach said he suggests we go to Martinez first at the State because he has a whole program. Alan Martinez, Deputy Secretary. He has a program that he is trying to implement.

Mr. Scargall said we can look at that. Does the City have anything that they could offer.

Chair Calvert said maybe on Siringo.

Mr. Abeyta said the whole model of the fraternal orders is too much. They set up around the fact that they have a bar and a place to rent out for dances. Is that what the purpose is supposed to be. He is envisioning offices for each organization and one printer for them all to use and things like that.

Chair Calvert said that is why we would go look at the buildings.

Mr. Scargall said we do want a meeting space and a big space for events and office spaces. We are stronger together.

Ms. Seaton said the Women's Veterans organization started in Albuquerque and was less available in Santa Fe. Now we have a unit in Santa Fe. She is involved with that. A facility like that can be really useful and a good part of the community. We don't have a space. It would be wonderful for smaller organizations like us.

Mr. Scargall said we need to dream big and for the future.

Mr. Dettelbach said the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter in Albuquerque has closed. Ours in Santa Fe is successful. Unless they get their internal aspect together they will fail.

Mr. Scargall said he agrees. It takes leadership and tough conversations.

Chair Calvert said if certain organizations are willing to give up their existing buildings and sell them, like the VFW, that could sustain them until they get their act

together. We need an approach right now. We need to agree on that to start moving this forward. How do we want to start.

Ms. Seaton said we can interview the organizations who might be interested and see what their needs and interests are and what they are willing to put into in and get out of it. Sum that up into a report and discuss it here at the next meeting, then go to the next step.

Ms. Rodriguez said we had a facilitator for us at the beginning of our meetings. Maybe we need that. They may not want to work with one another.

Mr. Scargall said we can do the initial data collection. Also as we do the face to face meetings we can do the back end of looking at feasible options in the community. Have a subcommittee maybe.

Chair Calvert asked what is the universe.

Mr. Scargall said the VFW and American Legion are the two main players. They are the ones in crisis. Listen to them.

Chair Calvert asked do we have volunteers to do that.

Chair Calvert and Greg Scargall volunteered to go talk to the organizations.

Chair Calvert said he will volunteer to go have a conversation with the Elks and the Eagles to see what is available there without mentioning any names or organizations.

B. PROPOSAL FROM INTERFAITH SHELTER FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Ms. Sanchez said she received a letter for the Board regarding the rental space last year that the Board funded for the Veterans Healthcare Advocate. They did present their report to her for the first quarter. They served 48 homeless Veterans with vouchers, sobering support services, housing and reducing Veteran incarceration. They are looking for \$2,604 in rent for this year.

Chair Calvert asked are those housing vouchers.

Mr. Hughes said yes, the ones the VA provides. Permanent housing.

Chair Calvert asked is this for John Herman.

Mr. Hughes said yes, it is very helpful to have him at the shelter.

Chair Calvert said he thinks it is a good investment and something we want to continue.

Ms. Seaton asked do we have the money.

Chair Calvert said yes.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Abeyta, to approve the request.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. DISCUSS VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

Ms. Sanchez said the Veteran's Day Parade is happening on Friday. She would like to know who is going to attend, who will have the banner and what are the logistics.

Chair Calvert said he and Carmen Rodriguez will be there.

Mr. Scargall said he will be there and will bring the pins and he has the banner.

Chair Calvert said he and Carmen will hold the banner and walk in the parade.

Mr. Scargall said he should be hearing back on the t-shirts.

Chair Calvert said he thinks t-shirts will not be a factor. It may be cold.

Chair Calvert said we will meet at the Fire Station by Ft. Marcy. The Parade starts at 10:30, they want participants to be there at 9:30.

Ms. Sanchez said she will let them know that the Board will have three participants.

Chair Calvert said there is a ceremony after that at the Bataan Memorial Building at about 11:00 am.

Mr. Scargall said Santa Fe High School is doing a ceremony from 11:45 to 12:15.

D. DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND: PHILLIP HERNANDEZ, LIAM K. O'CONNOR

Chair Calvert said this item is about filling our vacancy. These are the only two applicants we have who sent in their resumes. Do we want to recommend one. We could recommend both to the Mayor and let him pick or we can give preference. He has some latitude. He will get both applicants.

Mr. Hernandez left the meeting for the purposes of this discussion.

Ms. Rodriguez said she would like to recommend Phillip first and O'Connor second.

Mr. Dettelbach said he suggests we choose one. The second person could be invited to be an alternate.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Dettelbach, to recommend Phillip Hernandez for appointment by the Mayor.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dettelbach, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, to ask that the applicant not chosen by the Mayor to appoint be asked to become an alternate and attend the meetings as a non voting member.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Calvert said this is all subject to what the Mayor decides. We have to give him both names with our preference and he will appoint one of them.

Mr. Hernandez returned to the meeting.

Mr. Scargall informed Mr. Hernandez that the Board decided to recommend him to the Mayor for appointment.

Mr. Hernandez thanked the Board for their support and confidence in him.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON SFCC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Mr. Scargall said he did get it worked out with the Community College but it did not come easy. We will be helping Veterans who no longer have the support of the VA and their dependents. They are in the process of getting the word out and will be

awarding scholarships for the next semester. He will get the information to the website. Thank you for supporting this. We will be hearing stories about how peoples lives have changed due to this.

Chair Calvert said there was a difference in how to help. The College wanted to help a lot with a little and we wanted to help a few with a lot.

Mr. Scargall said we will be helping a few with a lot and we will track individuals and support them. We will provide wrap around services to see them through this.

Mr. Hughes asked how many will be awarded.

Mr. Scargall said there will be 5 to 6 full time scholarships awarded. Full time scholarships will be \$2,000 and \$1,000 for part time. The amounts came from a national model.

Chair Calvert asked who tracks that.

Mr. Scargall said there is an application, we check the DD214, turn it in to financial aid and a committee of 3 staff members with Veteran backgrounds will go through them and decide who gets them.

Chair Calvert asked who will track the results.

Mr. Scargall said the financial aid office. We will be part of the annual scholarship banquet next year.

Mr. Dettelbach said the college matched the money we gave. US Bank is going to fund a scholarship for Veterans as well.

Chair Calvert thanked Mr. Scargall for staying on it and persevering.

B. UPDATE OF FRIENDS OF VAB

Ms. Sanchez said we have to table this. The person we needed to meet has been out on family leave. She and Chris Sanchez are going to meet with the libraries to see how they run theirs.

Chair Calvert said he suggests that everyone on this Board think about some people that may serve on such a Board as will be needed for the Friends of the VAB. He pitched someone yesterday but he was not interested. Everyone needs to start thinking of good Board members. It would be nice if they are Veterans and if they are successful in the community so they can help raise funds.

Mr. Hernandez said there is a Veteran who was just hired at Northern New Mexico College as the Veteran Coordinator. Rudy has a 501c3 set up and geared towards Veterans. There is potential there. It is sitting idle. If we get behind him and include him we could probably use it.

Chair Calvert said that might work but they probably already have some sort of Board. Maybe explore what arrangements he has around that organization. We will need to have great input into this. He does appreciate that information.

Mr. Hernandez said he will explore that.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND ADVISORY MEMBERS

Chair Calvert said he wants to remind everyone that there will be a ceremony for unclaimed remains tomorrow at 2:15 pm at the National Cemetery.

Ms. Seaton said she will be there. There is one woman's remains among the group.

Chair Calvert said it is a fairly powerful ceremony. If you can make it great.

Chair Calvert said the Stand Down is on the 11th and 12th at the church, Rancho Viejo. It is by IAIA, by the Community College. Friday and Saturday. 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Ms. Seaton said she will be there with a couple of volunteers.

Mr. Hernandez said he will be there.

Mr. Abeyta asked who is the stand down for.

Ms. Rodriguez said homeless vets.

Mr. Abeyta asked how do they get there.

Mr. Hughes said the flyer does not say how to get there.

Chair Calvert said the University of Art and Design location fell through. It will be hard to get to.

Mr. Hughes said there is bus service out there.

Mr. Abeyta said it is a long walk from Richards.

Mr. Scargall said it is not ideal. We budgeted money and got an email from the organizations putting this on asking for money. We asked for a letter describing what the funds would be used for and for the details. The letter he got was not complete and was generic. It needed to be an original letter with what the money is for.

Chair Calvert said that is the position we are in. We have to weigh the best ordinations and put our money there.

Mr. Scargall said it has always been at the University of Art and Design. It has been good in the past. You have to be a community partner. It should not be on Veterans Day when the Veterans are involved in parades and ceremonies. It is not the right vision or foresight but we will be there.

Mr. Scargall said he has an update on the position. He had a gal come in who would be a good fit for it. He talked to Tim at the VIC yesterday and told him he has an applicant for them.

Mr. Scargall said he had a Veterans family event and appreciated the Board participation he had. He also thanked Chris for putting him on his radio show. The Mayor gave us a Proclamation for student veterans. It proclaimed Student Veterans Day in Santa Fe.

Chair Calvert asked Mr. Hughes to find out exactly what the position is and what the progress is.

Chair Calvert said on the 17th at the Community College is the second half of the Employment Summit. This will be a job fair for Veterans.. Philip Hernandez is the Coordinator. The Department of Workforce Solutions and DVS are putting it on.

Mr. Scargall said it will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Mr. Hughes said we resubmitted to the City of Santa Fe to be declared as ending homeless for the Mayor's challenge. We are at the point where as fast as we ID homeless Veterans, we are able to house them within a month. Maybe it will be announced on Veterans Day.

Mr. Dettelbach said we formed R and R for Veterans. It is a 501c3. Roofs and Ramps. Our second roof started yesterday. He will be looking to this organization to, on an individual basis, support a roof by roof program in the Santa Fe area. We will be starting a 3rd roof in January. There are four organizations helping to fund it.

Mr. Hughes said it sounds good.

Chair Calvert said if we contribute would it come out of the \$30,000 fund.

Mr. Scargall said we have to look at it.

Chair Calvert asked do we have a mechanism to disperse the money.

Mr. Scargall said yes, we did it with the Interfaith Shelter.

Mr. Dettelbach said we were going to check with legal about giving money to individuals.

Ms. Sanchez said we cannot give to individuals.

Mr. Scargall said we have to put in a request.

Mr. Hughes asked how much per roof.

Mr. Dettelbach said it depends. The Margaret Durr roof is going to be \$20,000 to \$30,000 due to mold. You can contribute anything to help, \$100.

Mr. Scargall said we need to make sure we take pictures at the Veterans Day Parade.

Chair Calvert asked who from the City will be there.

Ms. Sanchez said she will not be able to be there.

Mr. Scargall said he will try to take some.

Chair Calvert said at the beginning before things start would be the best time.

Ms. Sanchez said we can put pictures or film on the website.

Mr. Scargall asked can you set us up with Facebook.

Ms. Sanchez said she can look into it but the City will have to control it.

Chair Calvert asked Julie, are you keeping up with events we talk about. Are they going to go on the website.

Ms. Sanchez said yes.

Mr. Scargall said the Santa Fe Community College Veterans United is doing a fall fundraiser if anyone wants to buy or sell raffle tickets. \$10 per ticket or 3 for \$20.

Ms. Seaton said our VAB member Hannah is long gone. The Women Veterans are putting together a care package for her for the holidays. If anyone wants to send an

email of good wishes she will include it or we can include material goods. She needs them by the 20th of November. Hannah is in Africa.

8. REPORT FROM STAFF

A. BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Sanchez said we have carry over funding from last year in the amount of \$55,254. We have \$67,288 for this year. The total is \$122,542.84.

Chair Calvert asked how much of that has been budgeted.

Ms. Sanchez said the \$55,254. It was \$82,604 and this is what is left.

Chair Calvert said hopefully the State will be successful with the check off.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hernandez said he is studying to be Mortgage Loan Facilitator. Maybe he will be able to help Veterans get employed and housed in permanent homes.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Calvert said the next meeting is December 14th.

Mr. Hughes said he can't attend because he will be in Denver.

Mr. Scargall said let's do something else at a restaurant and informal.

Chair Calvert said if there are any suggestions and arrangements they are welcome. Just inform us.

Mr. Dettelbach and Mr. Scargall will work on it.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Chris Calvert, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Martin', written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer